

The BUZZ WORD

Volume
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13
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*May you never forget what is worth remembering nor
ever remember what is best forgotten.*

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator –Melissa Jackson



To Our VVH Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are entering year 2 of the COVID-19 pandemic, none of us thought we would be dealing with COVID this long. Thank you again for your support of the VVH staff as they continue to work very hard to provide high-quality care to your loved ones despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19.

Now that we are out of our most current outbreak, I am reminding staff, families and visitors that now is not the time to let our guard down. The community prevalence of COVID-19 remains high but is decreasing every day. Our COVID-19 policies and practices remain unchanged, and we strongly encourage you not to visit if you are not feeling well.

We were over run, in a great ways, by Valentine's cards and messages to your loved ones from various community organizations. There was even some chocolate delivered for their enjoyment as well.

A new section is being added to our website **www.vvh.vermont.gov** entitled HIPAA. Once operational, you will find a copy of our most recent Privacy Notice/Practices forms and other forms needed to make requests to limit the disclosure of medical information, make changes to medical information that you feel is incorrect, and how to report any potential HIPAA breach.



Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov



THANK YOU

A check was presented to Melissa Jackson, CEO of the Vermont Veterans' Home, by Bennington Lodge of Elks Exalted Ruler Fred Gilbar. The Bennington Elks received a Gratitude Grant from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Grand Lodge to support the Member's Assistance Fund at The Vermont Veterans' Home.

This Fund supports specific needs (furniture, haircuts, clothing and other personal items) of the Home's residents. Pictured left to right, Lori Pinsonneault (Bennington Elks Lodge Officer), Melissa Jackson and Fred Gilbar.

*From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin*



“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” – Leo Tolstoy

Despite lingering snowstorms, we are excitedly awaiting the first day of Spring! We have high hopes to be able to provide some fun outdoor activities this Spring and Summer, including musical events for the Veterans and Members. As each month goes by, we will consider the state of the pandemic and how to safely provide these activities.

Our Activities Department is ready to get folks outdoors using the wheelchair accessible golfcart that was purchased in the Fall! The deer and the fish are ready for visits as well!

Additionally, some important projects driven by our Environmental Services Department are picking up momentum. Our security project, which was postponed in the height of the pandemic, is underway which will result in all new doors with updated locking systems.



Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA COO/Deputy Administrator (802) 447-6544 asa.morin@vermont.gov

MARCH IS SOCIAL WORKER MONTH

and this year's theme is **“The Time is Right for Social Work”** which highlights how social workers have enriched our society for more than a century and how their services continue to be needed today. People become social workers because they have a strong desire to help others and make our society a better place to live for all. Social workers have helped drive significant, positive changes in our nation. Most importantly, our Social Workers touch the lives of each and every Veteran and Member.

Christina, Corey and Aisling know each of their Veterans and Members on a very personal level and take care of their needs and assist them in many different ways.



L: Christina Cosgrove,
Director

R: Corey McCann and
Aisling Taft





Some artists use brushes.. others don't. Let the creativity come ALIVE!!!



Karaoke



OH YEAH!

groovin' to the music



90 HAPPY birthday



HOWDY FOLKS,

You may be wondering why the Chaplain hasn't been wandering around the Home these past few months. Here's the reason:

Chaplain's Corner

Back in July ~ September 2021, I was at the VA and in the planning stage for having knee replacements. When they did the pre-op testing they found my blood counts to be abnormal. They sent me to Dartmouth-Hitchcock where I received the diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). This is a chronic leukemia which requires treatments for extended periods now and into the future because this cancer leaves a residue of cells that can not be detected. So... treatments must continue regularly.

As we Christians do, I immediately asked God to take my burden. I am confident that God will get me through this. There have been some other bumps in the road as well, such as pseudo-gout in my knees and blood clots in my left leg and right lung. He has held my hand every moment and has had His angels (doctors, nurses, specialists) as well as family, friends and neighbors who have called, sent cards, prayed and been there for me. Praise God for all these very special folks.

I am very weak due to the cancer infusions and all the medicines, but I am getting around with a walker or wheelchair. God has me on a positive ramp to become fully restored and in good condition. He is awesome. Sometimes, there is no strength to stand up, that's where God adds his strength to stand and off we go. Even in discomfort and pain, God's presence and strength leaves me with a sense of joy and peace.

Enough about me, I surely miss not being able to visit you folks, to meet the new Veterans, spouses and new staff. But praise God in due time I'll return to normal. Thinking about you folks often. Congrats to Ruth on her 100th Birthday!! Wow!!

It will be great to get back to the Chapel and to bring God's messages to you all. And maybe soon you all will be able to come to the Chapel for Mass and All-Faiths services.

Remember, God causes all things to work together for good to share with those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God bless you all and please pray for our troops everywhere.

Chaplain Ken

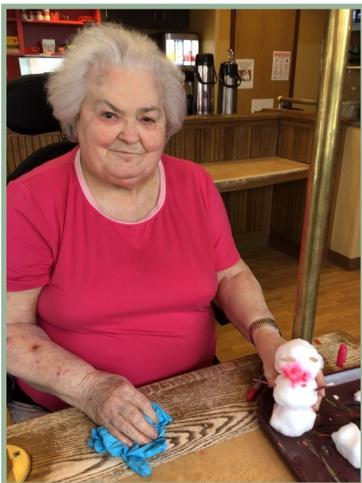


THANK YOU

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13, with the help from Learners at the Village School of North Bennington, Shaftsbury Elementary, Molly Stark Elementary and Bennington Elementary, brought hand-made Valentine's Day Cards, chocolate heart pops and cookies for our Veterans.

Asa Morin, COO and Melissa Jackson, CEO gratefully accepted the donations from Denise Colety, Mary Morrissey, Sandy Sinclair, Susan Pleasant, Donna Stone, Paula Colbert and Dolores Krawczyk.

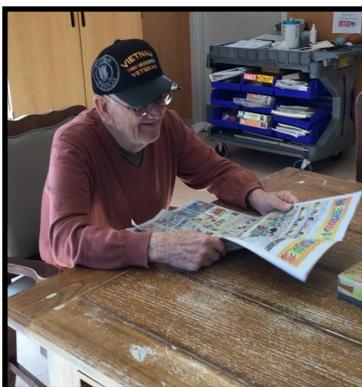
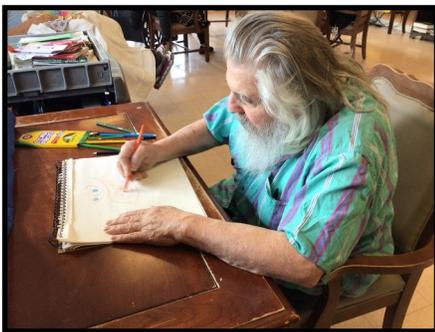
BALLOON
VOLLEYBALL
ON
AMERICAN WAY



Spring time Snowmen.....
Bringing the outdoors in.



Fresh Air, Blue Skies and Sunshine make for a great combination to be outdoors and enjoy the day. Afterwards, come in for a little R&R --- arts and crafts, reading or just chillin' indoors.



On behalf of the Veterans and Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts
 Steve Leach
 VFW Auxiliary Unit #648-Rutland
 Jim & Barbara Logan
 VFW Post #7832-Vergennes
 VFW Post 1332—Bennington
 William Hartz
 Voices of Vets
 Burlington Auxiliary Post #782
 Kathy Gringas
 Girl Scout Troop of E. Dover
 Bethel Elementary School
 Rochester Elementary School
 Stockbridge Elementary School
 American Legion Unit 13 Auxiliary
 Learners at the Village School of N. Bennington
 Learners at Shaftsbury Elementary School
 Learners at Bennington Elementary School
 Learners at Molly Stark Elementary School
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit #90
 Children of E. Arlington c/o David Moore
 Girl Scout Troop 61462, Arlington
 Fisher Elementary School
 McCullough Library Youth Services
 Maurices—S. Burlington
 Manchester Community Library
 M. Smith of Lazy Palms RV Ranch
 Rensselaer Co. Home Bureau
 Bennington Elks Lodge 567
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit #90
 Joel Whiting
 Priscilla Lanpher
 W. L. Case Am. Leg. Aux. Unit #29-Readsboro
 American Legion Post #49 Auxiliary-Fair Haven
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67- Chester

**THANK
 YOU**



**FOR YOUR
 KINDNESS**

**VVH Staff Recognition
 Years of Service**

ADMINISTRATION

Steve McClafferty—10 years
 Tammy Shields—2 years

**CLEANING/HOUSEKEEPING/
 LAUNDRY**

Michelle Mabee — 2 years

DIETARY

Lawrence Gauthier — 14 years
 Austin Murray — 1 year

NURSING

Robert Welch — 20 years
 Jennifer Sausville — 8 years
 Diana Kingsley — 7 years
 Ashlee VanOrman — 5 years
 Christina Campbell — 4 years



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland
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VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

Lydia Vaine, her managers Caroline and Cathy along with all the staff of South Burlington's Maurices, worked hard motivating the shoppers of Chittenden County to purchase slipper socks and donate them to The Vermont Veterans' Home.



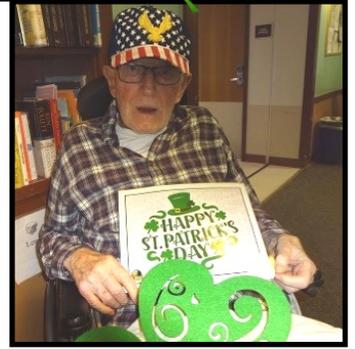
The Vaine family lovingly supplemented the rest to make goal of assuring each resident received a pair.

Thank You



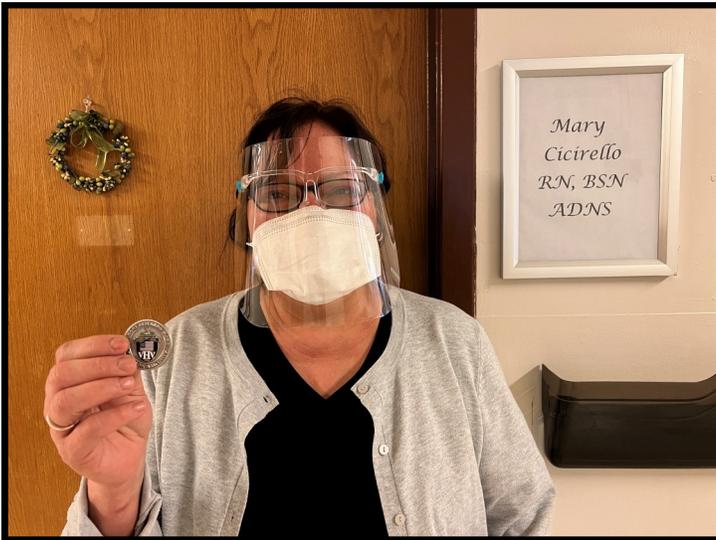
Everyone is
a little bit


IRISH



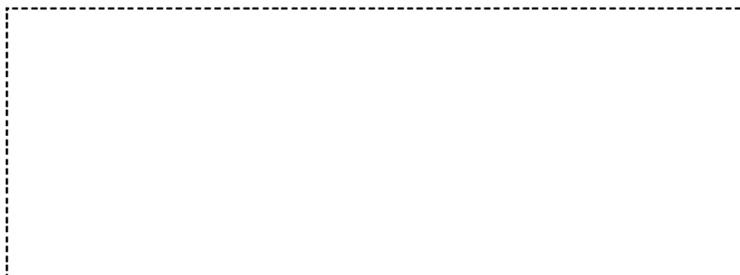
on St. Patrick's Day





The Board of Trustees of the Vermont Veterans' Home has awarded Mary Cicirello the Board Challenge Coin. For the past two years, Mary has been extremely instrumental in obtaining COVID-19 test kits for use on Veterans, Members, and staff. Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, she took on the role of ensuring all staff were tested. Since January 2021, she is responsible for the twice weekly, if not more frequent, PCR testing of staff, Veterans and Members. Of more recent, she took command of the COVID therapeutic options for Veterans and Members. We are extremely fortunate to have Mary on our team leading us through these challenging days.

"FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the Veterans of Vermont and their families"



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

